

Senate Resolution 66

By: Senators Hill of the 4th, Stephens of the 27th, Thomas of the 54th, Tolleson of the 20th and Meyer von Bremen of the 12th

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing February 3, 2005, as Community Health Centers Day; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, federally funded community health centers located in 94 of the state's medically
3 underserved communities provide high quality primary and preventive health care for over
4 221,000 people in the State of Georgia, including the working poor, uninsured, underinsured,
5 elderly, homeless, immigrants, and other vulnerable populations without regard to income
6 status, cultural or ethnic heritage, or disease conditions; and

7 WHEREAS, community health centers bring over \$25 million in federal funds per year to
8 Georgia communities, recruit and retain excellent health professionals where they are most
9 needed, and offer access to a wide range of cost-effective medical and dental services and
10 prescription medicines as well as to health education, nutrition counseling, translation,
11 community outreach, transportation, and support programs; and

12 WHEREAS, community health centers have a track record of over three decades of
13 controlling costs, their cost effectiveness having been documented in several studies which
14 show that rates of emergency room visits and hospitalization are much lower among
15 community health center patients than patients of other providers, including a Kaiser
16 Foundation study which shows that community health centers in Georgia save the state
17 Medicaid program at least \$14.4 million per year for care provided to Medicaid patients; and

18 WHEREAS, the community health centers work in partnership with other health care
19 providers, local hospitals, health departments, social service agencies, and health related
20 supportive services to maximize resources and assure that services are coordinated to
21 improve the health status of the community; and

22 WHEREAS, President George W. Bush has made expansion of community health centers
23 to new communities nationwide a hallmark of his health care agenda and has proposed

1 doubling the federal investment in health centers over a five-year period, providing the
2 opportunity for expansion of health center services in Georgia; and

3 WHEREAS, Georgia's community health centers and their state organization, the Georgia
4 Association for Primary Health Care, support the president's expansion goals and have taken
5 a leadership role in helping to resolve the state's health care access problems, assure
6 continuous quality improvement, and reduce health care disparities among the underserved
7 through participation in the national health disparity collaboratives; and

8 WHEREAS, the community health centers deserve commendation for their valuable
9 contributions in expanding access to health care and their outstanding record of service and
10 dedication to improving the health care and health status of all Georgians.

11 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
12 recognize February 3, 2005, as Community Health Centers Day.

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
14 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the Georgia Association for Primary
15 Health Care.